

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15623 261932Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05

DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /096 W

-----270910Z 061652 /23

R 261948Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3234

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PASS ERDA GERMANTOWN FOR J YEVICK

PASS ERDA WASHINGTON FOR G HELFRICH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH LMFBR PROGRAM

REF: PARIS 8797; PARIS 9989, OECD PARIS 11451

1. RECENT DISCUSSIONS AT CEA BROUGHT OUT THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ON THE FRENCH LMFBR PROGRAM:

2. ONE-THIRD OF CEA LMFBR R&D BUDGET IS IN DIRECT SUPPORT
OF SUPER-PHENIX PROJECT ON SUCH ITEMS AS FULL SIZE TESTS
OF FUEL HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND BACKUP BORON SHUTDOWN
SYSTEM TESTS IN PHENIX.

3. ONE-THIRD OF THE CEA LMFBR BUDGET IS ON BASIC LONG
RANGE R&D STUDIES INCLUDING SUCH ITEMS AS IMPROVED HEAT
EXCHANGER CLEANUP METHODS, ADVANCED FUELS AND MATERIALS
DEVELOPMENT, AND SAFETY ISSUES.

4. THE REMAINING ONE-THIRD OF THE LMFBR R&D BUDGET IS
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15623 261932Z

EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE STUDIES OF THE SUPER-PHENIX
FOLLOWUP PLANT (SUPER-PHENIX II) AND SUPPORT OF THE
RAPSDIE TEST PROGRAM.

5. UNDER THE SUPER-PHENIX II PROGRAM AN IMPORTANT EFFORT
IS ON HETEROGENOUS CORE CONCEPTS INCLUDING CONSIDERATION
OF RADIAL AND RADIAL-AXIAL HETEROGENEITY. THEY BELIEVE

A BREEDING GAIN OF 0.29 TO 0.35 MAY BE ACHIEVEABLE VERSUS
0.18 CALCULATED FOR SUPER-PHENIX AND 0.12 CALCULATED
AND MEASURED IN PHENIX.

6. PRESENT FRENCH PLANS CALL FOR ORDERING IX
PHENIX II ABOUT 1981-1982 AT A POWER LEVEL OF 1200-1800
MWE AND THEN FOLLOW WITH ONE LMFBR APPROXIMATELY EVERY
YEAR UTILIZING THE PLUTONIUM GENERATED FROM LWRS.

7. INITIAL DECISIONS ON POWER LEVEL AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
OF SUPER-PHENIX II WOULD BE REACHED IN ABOUT ONE YEAR.
EDF IS SETTING UP A GROUP WHICH WILL CONCERN ITSELF WITH
FUTURE LMFBR PLANS BEYOND SUPER-PHENIX I.

8. THE PHYSICS GROUP AT CADARACHE IS INVOLVED IN A LOW
LEVEL EFFORT ON PROLIFERATION ASPECTS AND ALTERNATE
CYCLES.

9. SITE WORK AT SUPER-PHENIX STARTED ABOUT SIX MONTHS
AGO AND CURRENTLY ABOUT 200 PEOPLE WORK THERE. LONG TERM
PROCUREMENT ITEMS ARE EITHER ORDERED OR ABOUT TO BE
PLACED ON ORDER INCLUDING THE TURBO-GENERATOR FROM
ANSALDO. THERE ARE SOME CEA FEARS THAT STRONG LOCAL
AGITATION NEAR THE CONSTRUCTION SITE BY ANTI-LMFBR GROUPS
MAY MATERIALIZE THIS SUMMER AND MAY CAUSE CONSTRUCTION
STOPPAGE FOR 2 OR 3 MONTHS.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, URANIUM, BUDGETS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS15623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770189-1260
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770514/aaaaalxn.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a663289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 8797, 77 PARIS 9989, 77 OECD PARIS 11451
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2355506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH LMFBR PROGRAM
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a663289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009